



A Bi-Monthly Newsletter For Volunteers By Volunteers

ARBORETUM CONNECTIONS

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE

July– August 2019 1595 N. Sierra Street, Reno, NV 89503 (775)-785-4153 Volume 2 Issue 4



Summer Activities are Heating Up!

It's summer and the Wilbur D May Arboretum and Botanical Garden is alive with color and activity!

Burke Garden is nearly finished. We've got an update on it in "Interesting Spots" on page 8. Storytime in the Garden, sponsored by the Washoe County Library, for ages 6 and under is back in Honey's Garden on Thursday mornings at 10am. See page 7.

The "Good Nature Walking Tours" are returning this month and will be ongoing through the fall. There is a special three part walk on the "Power of Plants" with Danielle Ornelas in both July and August. With it comes some opportunities to volunteer. There's more information on that on page 4. We've also got some special petroglyph Good Nature tours coming up as well, presented by Laura Robertson. Check the calendar for upcoming dates.

And we can't forget to mention the 5th Annual Lavender Day! It's sponsored by the May Arboretum Society and slated for July 13th from 9:00am-1:00pm. A popular event, it's at St. Patrick's Grove, right next to the Labyrinth Garden. Page 5 has more info.

So come and join us in the gardens, there is a lot going on!

Thanks, Bev Treadway, Editor
Email: Lingonberrylilacs@gmail.com



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Volunteer's Corner

By Bev Treadway

One of the fun ways to volunteer is to participate in one of our tour building workshops. The purpose of these get-togethers is to compile ideas and feedback for the project at hand. A few heads are better than one and we have gotten some amazing insights by just gathering a few folks together in a room.

Our latest workshop was a two part planning meeting on June 4th and 10th, to support Danielle's Good Nature Tour summer series. It was held at the ranch house and each lasted about two hours.

Participants described their input on what parts of the arboretum inspired them and what impacts they felt. The goal was to determine how we interact with plants in our day to day lives. They also created a map to mark out routes for each of the tours.

Workshop attendees included: Susan Lester, Jana Dunn, Danielle Ornelas, Linda Enteles, Kass Kirkham and Bev Treadway. We had an added benefit: Linda brought her wonderful, tasty snacks of banana bread and chocolate chip cookies to help keep our strength up.

In the past, these groups have helped to set up programs such as: Little Sprouts, Cabin Fever, and Good Nature. Volunteers have also helped to streamline our school tours at "after meetings" where we talk about what worked and didn't work for each tour.

Anyone can participate in one of these workshops. Sometimes it's just been two people putting their heads together for a half hour; other times, it's more organized. Either way, it's a fun way to support the Arboretum.

So, if you are interested in joining the next one; or if you have an idea for a program you'd like to explore, let the folks at the Arboretum office know at 775-785-4153.



Photos from our latest Volunteer workshop in June.

Join us on a Journey into the Power of Plants

By Danielle Ornelas

Beginning July 12th the older adult education program, The Power of Plants, will be in full bloom at the May Arboretum. This three part educational series aims to foster community, learning, and photography while touring the lush gardens of the arboretum.

However, this educational experience could not be cultivated alone. With the help of five volunteers, over a two day workshop, we created an outline of what the program would look like in terms of interest, routes, and topics to cover. Thanks to volunteers this program has a budding start, but we're not done yet!

In order for the program to continue to grow into something truly original, we need people like you to *shadow walks, provide input on what works, and to suggest areas for improvement.* But most importantly, *to ensure that the May Arboretum continues to meet the needs of older adults in the community by providing programming that is meaningful and engaging.*

The Power of Plants is not just an education program, but a symbol that represents the many benefits the May Arboretum and its plant communities have brought to all of our lives.

Check out the flyer to the right, do any of these topics pique your interest?

Though registration is required for all three sessions for participants, volunteers who are interested in shadowing or contributing to the program are welcome to join.

If this sounds like you, give me a call @ (760) 670-7479 or email at dornelas@washoecounty.us

Let's talk about the power of plants!

GOOD NATURE!
WALKING TOURS FOR OLDER ADULTS

THE POWER OF PLANTS

Series 1: July 12, 19, 26
Series 2: August 16, 23, 30

Session 1
Plants enrich the Earth through nutrient cycling. What does this look like in the arboretum?

Session 2
Plants sustain all forms of life by providing food, habitat, and shelter. What life exists in the arboretum?

Session 3
Plants cultivate the soul by inspiring creativity, relaxation, and community. How can the arboretum contribute to your overall well-being?

Volunteer's Corner

Outstanding Volunteerism!

The ways to volunteer at the Arboretum are practically endless, and every bit contributes to making the May Arboretum a truly incredible place. As you probably know, we keep a record of all submitted volunteer time. These hours are presented to the May Foundation annually, the Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission monthly, and used as a benchmark for measuring community involvement throughout the year.

This year, 12 volunteers were recognized with a Certificate of Recognition from the State of Nevada Office of the Governor for each logging **OVER 200 HOURS** in one year! These volunteers included: Catherine Tollstrop, Lynn Short, Rodney Dimmitt, Pat Leedy, Susan Mullen, Maryann Bergquist, Stephen Mohan, Danny Carasco, Susan Campau, Becky Conrad, Lenita Powers, and Chris Veach.

Bev Treadway also received a certificate from the Governor for taking on "a significant leadership role resulting in a new/enhanced program, innovative way of meeting organizational needs, or addressing an unmet need" for her initiative and hard work in creating this very newsletter!

Thank you to each and every one of you for your contribution! Every single hour is greatly valued and appreciated!



Denise Evans devans@washoecounty.us



Bill Carlos demonstrating the finer points of *Caring for Flowering Perennials*.

The May Arboretum Monthly Gardening series continues!

Over the past two months, we have enjoyed learning more about the *Fundamentals of Rose Care and Pruning* and the *Care of Flowering Perennials*.

The gardening series continues with a fun and informative lecture on *Birding in the Arboretum* with our very own Katie Bird on July 10th. Receive an introduction on bird watching (birding), the importance of the hobby, and how birds interact with your garden. Learn which plants are good for birds and which birds are good for natural pest management. Then, participate in a group bird walk in the gardens. Calling all early birds - this special event starts two hours early at 8am!

Join us again on August 14 at our regular time of 10am to learn more about *Rejuvenation Pruning for Flowering Shrubs* with Bill Carlos. Learn about identifying species and the appropriate time to rejuvenate them, including the removal of old growth versus new growth. Guided practice in the gardens will follow.

Meet the Staff: Bev Treadway



Bev (In the big hat and work gloves) at a mulching "party" at the Arboretum.

In the last few issues, you've met Katie, Denise, and Bill, who are integral to producing this newsletter every two months. In this issue we thought we would introduce the other member of the newsletter staff: Bev Treadway.

Bev moved to Reno from northern California in 1989. She worked as a distribution supervisor for a mini blind manufacturer for 14 years, until she retired.

Being outdoors, gardening, and writing are Bev's favorite hobbies. But she also loves reading mysteries, watching BBC TV, and creating pretty much anything.

Bev became a volunteer at the Arboretum in 2016 and started helping with the school tours. She had always wanted to be a docent, and this gave her the chance to try it on for size. She found out that it was a perfect fit for her.

Bev lives in the Virginia City Foothills with her husband Greg, their dog, Avalanche, and three cats, Misty, Zephyr and Lightning.

Spotlight On: Lavender Day in Labyrinth Garden

If you love lavender, this is the event for you! There will be demonstrations on harvesting, infusing, and cooking with lavender and other mini-presentations under the Red Tent throughout the morning. There will be a diverse selection of more than 100 lavender plants for sale and Master Gardeners on hand to provide tips for growing lavender in Northern Nevada.

Make your own lavender wand, paint an art stone, and other crafts, or visit Wilbur's Garden Cart and purchase sachets and other products made or infused with lavender. Don't forget to try Susan's Famous Lavender Lemonade or the Society's Lavender Lemon Bars. Cash and credit accepted.

TIME: 9:00am to 1:00pm

LOCATION: Saint Patrick's Garden by the Labyrinth Garden

~ Admission is Free and Open to the Public ~



Scenes from past Lavender Days

Special Events at the Wilbur D. May Arboretum

July 2019

- ♦ **July 9, 23** Nature Explorers
Nature Journaling For Home
Schooler 9:30-11:30am
- ♦ **July 10** Monthly Gardening
Series—Birding in the Arbo. 8am
- ♦ **July 11, 18, 25** Storytime in the
Garden at 10 am in Honey's
Garden
- ♦ **July 12, 19, 26** Good Nature
Walking Tours for Older Adults,
the Power of Plants. A 3 part
series. 9:30-11:00 am
- ♦ **July 13** 5th Annual Lavender Day
at the Labyrinth Garden Area.
9:00am – 1:00pm
- ♦ **July 16** Little Sprouts
- ♦ **July 23, 24** Discovery Station
1-3pm, Dixie's Plaza Garden

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28	29	30	31			

August 2019

- ♦ **Aug 1** Knit/Crochet Program
9-11am. Ages 9+ Reg. required.
- ♦ **August 6** Nature Explorers
Nature Journaling For
Homeschoolers 9:30-11:30am
- ♦ **August 14** Monthly Gardening
Series—Rejuv. Pruning for
Flowering Shrubs. 10am.
- ♦ **August 16, 23, 30** Good Nature
Walking Tours for Older Adults, the
Power of Plants. A 3 part series. 9:30-
11:00 am

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Words on Birds

By Katie Bird

Breeding season is in full swing now at the Arboretum. In nearly all of our larger garden zones there are multitudes of robin nests! Keep your ears open for the cheeping sounds of baby birds, and watch as the parents swoop in with heaps of insects to help them grow.

At some point in the gardens you may come across a baby bird that is out of its nest. **In almost all cases, this bird is just fine.** For songbirds it is normal for young to leave the nest (called fledging) and spend a few days on the ground before they learn to fly. The parents may not be visible, but they are close by and will readily take care of these temporarily grounded babies.

It's important to know that this is a normal part of their life cycle, because many well-meaning people end up "rescuing" these babies unnecessarily. **Additionally, attempting to rehabilitate native birds without proper permits is federally illegal.**



Wikipedia Commons

An adult American Robin feeding its young a juicy earthworm.

In the case that you find an injured adult bird (cat attacks, car collisions, window collisions, etc.) or have witnessed beyond all doubt that the young are orphaned, the only legal and ethical options are to take the bird to a properly certified rehab facility, or to let nature take its course.

The closest properly permitted rehab centers are [Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care](#) in South Lake, or [Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release](#) in Grass Valley, both of which are about 1.5 hours from Reno.

Remember, the best practices you can do to help birds during the breeding season are to keep your cat inside, and treat your windows with bird-safe measures. In general, let baby birds be!

Washoe County Library: Storytime in the Gardens

storytime
AT THE
**WILBUR D. MAY ARBORETUM
& BOTANICAL GARDEN**

THURSDAYS @ 10AM

**MEET @ ARBORETUM
SOUTH ENTRANCE**

**JUNE 13, 20, 27
JULY 11, 18, 25**

For more information contact the
Arboretum Educator at 775-785-4153
1595 N. Sierra St. Reno, NV 89503

Washoe County Library System
Wilbur D. May Arboretum

Join us, in partnership with the Washoe County Library System, for [Storytime in the gardens!](#) This event is family friendly, and has a focus on developing early literary skills. Sessions will include stories, movement, music, and hands-on activities.

The event will be held in Honey's Garden. Please enter from the South Arboretum entrance.

This program is best suited for families with children 6 years old and younger.

Interesting Spots to Check

By Bev Treadway

This time the interesting spot to check out is Burke Garden. We've seen the demolition and the added hardscapes go in. But it was a little hard to picture just what the end result would be without the flowers in bloom.

Well, Burke is now about 95% done. There is some more hardscape to tweak, but the plantings are stunning! Bill and Connie really out did themselves with variety of flowers and colors they hand picked. Especially striking is the "Ketchup and Mustard" rose located just behind and to the right of new fountain. It's really spectacular!

The colors bloom differently each week, creating an ever changing gorgeous display. There are both shade and sun areas, so you can really get some great ideas for what to grow in your own garden at home.

This is really the new hot spot to visit!



Entering the [Wilbur D. May Arboretum & Botanical Garden](#), you can sense that there is something special here. With a diverse plant community, beautiful garden layouts, and foliage changing with the seasons, it really is the jewel of Reno, Nevada! We have opportunities for all ages to explore, learn, celebrate, and get involved. Take a look around and see what peaks your interests. Your next outdoor adventure awaits at the Wilbur D. May Arboretum & Botanical Garden!

1595 N. Sierra Street, Reno Nevada 89503 775-785-4153

